

OBSERVATION OF VOICE IN THE WESTERN COLLARED LIZARD *CROTAPHYTUS COLLARIS BICINCTORES*

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ABSTRACT.— A noosed female *Crotaphytus collaris bicinctores* Smith and Tanner voiced an alarm similar to that of *C. wislizeni*.

Lizards, with the exception of the geckos, are considered voiceless (Smith, 1946; Stebbins, 1954). The gecko voice, which can be heard up to one hundred meters, is believed to serve to threaten or warn (Goin & Goin, 1971). Apparently some members of Iguanidae possess a weak voice that also serves to threaten when provoked. Jorgensen, Orton, and Tanner (1963) noted under laboratory conditions that the leopard lizard *Crotaphytus wislizeni* Baird and Girard changes its usual hissing to a high-pitched squeal before a vicious attack of its agitator. They concluded that the voice was characteristic of the Nevada Test-Site population. In late July 1970, a noosed male lizard and a noosed female *wislizeni* squealed and attempted to bite as they were removed from the noose. They were captured approximately six miles north of Wendell, Gooding County, Idaho, just off state highway 46.

On the same collecting trip, a few days later, a captured young female western collared lizard, *Crotaphytus collaris bicinctores* Smith and Tanner (BYU 3113), made a squealing sound while being released from the noose. The squeal resembled that of the *C. wislizeni*. To my knowledge this is the first record of a distinct voice for this species. The capture was made on a hot afternoon about eight miles south of Bruneau, Owyhee County, Idaho, on the east side of the Bruneau River.

At this time a comparative study of several members of the family Iguanidae and *Coleonyx variegatus* Baird is underway to describe anatomical voice mechanisms in these taxa.

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